

December 15, 1997

## CALFED Conservation Plan

### Issues left to be resolved

1. Type of Document(s)
  - a. HCP/NCCP
  - b. Sec. 7 biological opinion
  - c. Umbrella conservation plan that will cover a. & b. with no immediate take authorization associated with it.
  - d. Sub-area plan for the "legal Delta" that, in conjunction with c., would provide take authorization for specific actions and parties (e.g. ERPP implementation, Ag-Urban activities).
2. Geographic Scope
  - a. ERPP solution area
  - b. "Legal Delta"
  - c. CALFED Program solution area
  - d. Other
3. Plan Benefactors (if any)
  - a. Permittees (HCP/NCCP)
    1. State agency(s)
    2. Water/irrigation districts
    3. Private landowners
    4. JPA etc.
4. Assurances
  - a. Conditioned (by negotiated plan) no surprises assurances.
  - b. State and Federal funding contingency assurances.
  - c. Section 7 assurances for Federal third party benefactors.
5. Plan Development Committee
  - a. CALFED staff & DFG/FWS representatives
  - b. Representatives from the 4 common CALFED programs, IDT , and Impact Analysis Team (S. Cantrel)
  - c. Representatives from all CALFED agencies, plus a. & b.
  - d. Representatives from the potential permittees plus a. & b.
  - e. Representatives from all stakeholder groups plus a. & b.
6. Workplan for Committee Members
  - a. FWS responsibilities
  - b. DFG responsibilities
  - c. CALFED staff responsibilities
  - d. CALFED consultant responsibilities
  - e. Other members (presently undefined) responsibilities

## SCOPE OF WORK FOR A CONSERVATION PLAN

1. Compile list of species to be covered by the Plan.
  - a. USFWS provided list
  - b. DFG provided list
  - c. Stakeholders provided list (stakeholders include both water users/providers and environmental)
2. Compile information on the demographic/life history requirements of the covered species.
  - a. Existing recovery plans and literature
  - b. Discussion with species experts/scientists
3. Identify the habitats/ecological processes necessary to meet species requirements.
  - a. Recovery plans/critical habitat designations
  - b. Species experts
  - c. Literature
4. Identify status of above habitats/processes.
  - a. Existing conservation plans/planning efforts
  - b. Species/technical experts
  - c. Stakeholder input
5. Prioritize habitat protection/restoration/enhancement (using input from stakeholders, scientists, CF staff)
  - a. Based on level of species endangerment
  - b. Based on level of potential threat
  - c. Based on prioritizes set by existing recovery plans/strategies
  - d. Based on CALFED Program's focus (Delta solution )
  - e. Based on greatest number of high profile species benefited
6. Determine which ERPP implementation objectives best meet the prioritized habitat needs.
7. Determine where species conservation requirements are not met by ERPP implementation.
8. Develop a schedule of ERPP project implementation that provides the habitat requirements necessary to initiate recovery of the high priority species.
9. Develop a strategy to insure adequate conservation of the covered species beyond that provided by the ERPP.

( These projects should be geographically linked and benefit as many of the high priority species as possible. These projects may become the basis for a large conservation preserve/strategy that will provide the necessary assurance that the most endangered species/habitats will persist through time, bar any unforeseen catastrophic event. Any necessary mitigation requirements may be additive, or included through a conservation banking strategy. [A conservation bank is a preserve where acres=credits. As projects are approved and necessary mitigation levels are established, the project proponent may buy the amount of credits necessary to meet his/her mitigation requirements from an established bank. When the bank is fully "bought out", the need to provide mitigation is dealt with elsewhere within the preserve design/conservation strategy.] The ability for either an agency or Plan partner to acquire the bank, ensures that the most necessary habitats are preserved prior to any impacts occurring. Though the ERPP will have its own funding available for implementation, the purchasing of credits from the ERPP bank could then be used to extend the targets of the ERPP beyond what was originally funded and provide for a larger block of connected habitats.)